

Obituaries

Jeremy Swan

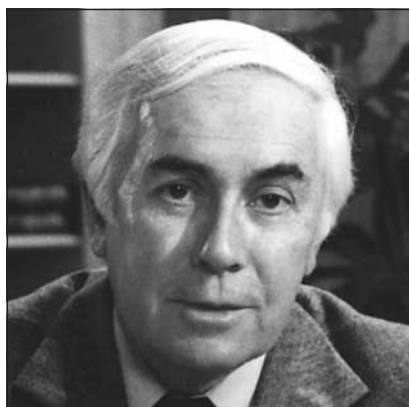
Cardiologist and joint inventor of the Swan-Ganz heart catheter

Jeremy Swan invented the Swan-Ganz cardiac catheter and was at the forefront of advances in cardiology for 40 years. A former president of the American College of Cardiology, Swan was an intellectual maverick who had vision, compassion, and wit. His cardiac catheter, made with a student of his called Willie Ganz, revolutionised heart surgery at its invention in 1968. It enabled bedside monitoring in critically ill patients by measuring heart output and capillary pressure in the lungs. This hugely improved the survival of patients with heart attacks, serious burns, acute respiratory failure, and many other conditions.

Swan was born in Sligo Town, Ireland, the son of two general practitioners, and educated at Castle Knock School. From there he went to St Vincent's College, Dublin, but his studies were soon interrupted by meningitis and he lapsed into a coma. Penicillin was not yet available, but his mother gave him sulfa drugs, which saved his life. He recovered completely, both as a scholar and as a middle weight boxer.

At St Thomas' Hospital Medical School his fellow students regarded him as a genius, and indeed, he was allowed to take his MRCP exams after six months instead of the usual two years.

After six months as a casualty surgeon he did two years' war service with the Royal Air Force, mainly stationed at a military hospital in Iraq. Returning to St Thomas', he spent three years as physiology lecturer and was awarded a PhD for his early work on cardiac catheterisation and pharmacology, researching under Henry Barcroft, a historic figure in heart physiology.



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

No one was surprised when he joined the brain drain to take up a research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota with Dr Earl Wood, a leading heart physiologist. Here he became director of the catheterisation laboratory. He defined the problems of congenital heart disease and developed techniques for measuring heart output and detecting shunts between the two sides of the heart.

He soon established his reputation as an innovative and prolific research scientist and clinician, and published more than 100 papers during this period. Unsurprisingly, he was courted by other hospitals and universities, and chose the little known Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, now the acclaimed Cedars-Sinai Hospital, a non-profit establishment in Los Angeles. He moved there in 1965 and stayed there for 22 years, and published another 300 papers covering all aspects of cardiology, including, in 1968, a description of the device that bears his name.

The idea, he said, came from watching the sail of a boat on Santa Monica Bay.

In retirement he moved to Pasadena, where he continued to write and to give invited lectures, did medico-legal work, and was a director of two companies making cardiac devices.

He was a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and was president of the American College of Cardiology in 1973. He received many awards and distinctions both in the United States and around the world; these included the Walter Dixon Memorial medal of the BMA, and an honorary doctorate from Trinity College Dublin in 1996. He made regular visits to Trinity, where there was always a big turnout for his lectures. There is a fund in his name at Trinity for teaching medical ethics.

Jeremy had the Irish way with words, an Irish wit, and occasionally a temper. He was popular, persuasive, and could puncture pomposity. He was mentor to a whole generation of American cardiologists, and to visiting doctors from other countries.

He died in his own hospital, from complications following a heart attack.

Divorced from his first wife, Pamela Skeet, and predeceased by a daughter, he leaves his second wife, Roma Shabbaghian; six children; and 11 grandchildren. [CAROLINE RICHMOND]

Harold James Charles ("Jeremy") Swan, director of cardiology Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, United States, and professor of medicine (cardiology) University of California Los Angeles 1965-87 (b 1922; q St Thomas' Hospital, London, 1945; PhD, FRCP), d 7 February 2005.

John Andrews Byrne



Former district community physician Scarborough (b Ballycastle, County Antrim, 1921; q Belfast 1947; DPH, MFCM), died from ischaemic heart disease on 31 July 2004.

John studied tropical medicine and hygiene at Liverpool and then went to Africa as a member of the Colonial Medical Service. Following his recommendations for setting up control programmes sleeping sickness, malaria, leprosy, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, bowel infections, typhoid, and virus infections were contained and greatly

reduced in the 1950s in the Toro district of western Uganda. In 1961 he became the medical officer of health in Dover until 1974, and then took up the post of district community physician in Scarborough. Predeceased by his wife, Ann, he leaves two children and five grandchildren. [SHEENA BLENKINSOPP]



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Teng Chia-Tung



Former chief physician and professor of medicine Peking University Medical College, China (b 1906; q Beijing 1933), d 22 May 2004. Professor Teng Chia-Tung, known as CT to his close English speaking friends, came from a farming family in a poor mountainous district of southern China. He won a scholarship to study medicine at the American supported Peking University Medical College (PUMC). In 1939 he was awarded a research fellowship at the Thorndyke Memorial Laboratory in Boston, United States. During the second world war PUMC was closed and it was difficult to obtain enough food in Beijing to keep alive. When it was reopened in 1948, CT became chief physician and later professor of medicine. He wrote *The Theory of Clinical Haematology*, which became the standard textbook on haematology for doctors in China and was translated into English and several other languages. During the cultural revolution when the young students in China deprived many senior doctors of their posts CT was forbidden to undertake any professional work and was allowed only to undertake menial activities. He was not reinstated in the medical school until the death of Chairman Mao and the end of the cultural revolution. His wife, Professor Yao Yun Wang, predeceased him. They had four children and seven grandchildren. [GEOFFREY DEAN]

David John Gould

Consultant dermatologist Truro (b 1947; q Leeds 1972; BSc, MRCP, FRCP), died from heart failure on 28 October 2004. After qualifying David became a dermatology registrar in Leeds and subsequently a lecturer in Sheffield, moving to Cornwall as a consultant dermatologist in 1979. He led the department to prominence in a central unit with five consultants, two associate specialists, and two registrars. He set up the Cornwall Dermatology Research Unit with Leo Salter from Cornwall College, looking at the effects on the skin of sunlight, pollution, and anti-oxidants such as green tea. He became director of postgraduate education in Cornwall, associate Dean for Cornwall, and senior lecturer in the new Peninsula Medical School. Unusually for a dermatologist, he was an examiner for the MRCP. He leaves a wife, Jane, and three children. [BILL BOWERS]

John Douglas Macdonald



Former general practitioner Nairn (b 1933; q Aberdeen 1956; FRCGP), died from prostate cancer on 8 January 2005. Following house jobs in Aberdeen national service with the Royal Army Medical Corps took him to Cyprus during a time of great conflict. He returned to his home town of Nairn to join his father in general practice. In 1966 he joined a pioneering group practice in modern purpose-built premises, becoming senior partner from 1980 until his retirement in 1993. He served as a trainer for many years and was a dynamic member of the North of Scotland faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners, serving as its first honorary secretary, later as chairman, then provost. He leaves a wife, Joy; three children; and six grandchildren. [ALISTAIR ADAM]

Ivan Myer Sievers

General practitioner Welling, Kent 1948-82 (b 1919; q Dublin 1941), died from an intracerebral haemorrhage on 2 April 2004. Myer completed his medical training at Durham and then Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, before serving in the Royal Fusiliers during the second world war. As a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he was mentioned in dispatches. He was one of the first medical officers to enter a concentration camp after the war ended. After army service he set up a practice in Welling, Kent. He leaves a wife, two sons, and three grandchildren. [GRAHAM SIEVERS]

Thomas Eldon Scott Stowell



Former general practitioner Southampton (b Northwich, Cheshire, 1919; q Oxford/St Thomas' Hospital, London; FRCGP), d 5 January 2005.

After qualifying Eldon Stowell became an orthopaedic specialist in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He entered general practice in Southampton in 1949 and became a founder member of the College of General Practitioners in 1952. An enthusiast for the concept of group practice, he was one of the first GPs appointed as a teacher to the new faculty of medicine at Southampton University. In 1938 he was awarded a Royal Humane Society testimonial for helping to rescue a drowning man. His computer, at first a substitute for his bad handwriting, became a source of comfort to him in his last months. Predeceased by his first wife, Hilda, and a son, he leaves his second wife, Christina, and two children from his first marriage. [MICHAEL WILLIAMS]

Walter Hewitt Toms



Former public health doctor Redbridge (b Lancashire 1917; q Edinburgh 1941), d 4 February 2005. Bill (as he was always known) went into general practice in the Potteries after the second world war. Later he worked in remote Newfoundland and in public health in Redbridge, where he stayed till his retirement—except for a year in northern Saskatchewan. Bill's large frame used to be well covered from enjoying good food and imbibing good wine. Recently, osteoarthritic hips compelled him to slim down. Predeceased by his first two wives, he leaves his third wife, Esther; six children by his first wife; and several grandchildren. [J K ANAND]

Advice

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